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ABSTRACT

Trends in the number of transfer students enrolled in New Jersey four-year institutions in the fall semesters from 1981 to 1985 are examined, along with the extent to which community colleges have contributed to the pool of students who transfer. Also considered are characteristics of students who transferred to state colleges. Overall, the trend is one of declining numbers of incoming transfer students. New Jersey community colleges contributed 44% of the students who entered as transfers in 1981 and 47% in 1985, although the actual number of transfers dwindled during the 5-year period. Additional findings include the following: transfers from New Jersey community colleges were 29% of the total transfers to private institutions in 1981 and 33% in 1985; incoming transfer students are predominantly full-time students (65%); about half of the transfer students enter as freshmen; 13% of incoming transfers were nonwhite; the median age for all incoming transfers to the eight public senior colleges studied was 21 years; slightly more than one-fourth were 25 years old or older at the time of enrollment as transfers; and while 85% of full-time students are 24 years old or younger, 67% of part-time students are 25 years old or older. (SW)

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Trends in Enrollment of Transfers to New Jersey Colleges, 1981-1985

Transfer students are an important source of new admissions to undergraduate programs offered by four-year colleges in New Jersey. This report focuses on trends in the number of transfer students who were enrolled in the fall semester of 1981 to 1985 and considers the extent to which community colleges have contributed to the pool of students who transfer credits at the time of entry into New Jersey four-year institutions of higher education. Also identified are some of the characteristics of the students who transferred to the state colleges.

1. Incoming Transfers to Public Senior Colleges

The number of transfer students admitted to the senior public colleges in the fall semesters of 1981 through 1985 is given in Table 1. Overall, the trend is one of declining numbers of incoming transfer students. Transfers to public senior colleges were 9.1% (9,863) of undergraduate enrollments in 1981 and 8.8% (8,717) of enrolled undergraduates in 1985. This slight decrease in the proportion of transfers is good news in view of 8.3% that occurred in their total undergraduate enrollment from 1981 to 1985 (108,336 students vs. 99,362 students). That there was no decrease in the number of incoming transfers at four colleges (Ramapo, Kean, Stockton and N.J.I.T.) contributed to the overall percentage decline being quite small. In Table 2 are numbers of transfers admitted to each of the public senior colleges from the principal types of feeder schools (i.e.,

New Jersey community colleges, New Jersey private institutions, New Jersey four year public institutions and out-of-state institutions). Community colleges in New Jersey contributed 44% of the students who entered as transfers in 1981 and 47% in 1985, although the actual number of transfers dwindled during the five-year period (from 4,339 to 4,092). The percentage of transfers reported to be from out-of- state colleges also did not decline (27% in 1981 and 28% in 1985). But if the transfers from unidentified schools are assumed to be from out of state, a decrease from 37% to 34% in out-of-state transfers occurred during the five-year period. Overall, there was a 11.6% decline in the size of the incoming transfer class from 1981 to 1985, but only a 5.7% decline in the contributions by community colleges to this pool of students.

2. Source Colleges for Transfer Students

Flow patterns of transfers from individual New Jersey community colleges to four year public and private institutions are shown in Table 3 and Table 4. Middlesex, Bergen and Morris Community Colleges contributed the greatest number of students to public senior colleges in 1981 compared to other colleges in the sector; although their contribution to the transfer pool declined in 1985 (13%, 23% and 2%, respectively) they maintained

tne position of leadership and accounted for 37% of the pool of transfers from community colleges to senior public colleges. Actual increases in the total number of transfers to senior public colleges from 1981 to 1985 were reported for Brookdale, Essex and Ocean Community Colleges. Concurrently, total transfers from community colleges to four year private institutions has also increased by 5%. Brookdale, Morris and Ocean Community Colleges were each responsible for contributing in excess of 150 students to the population of transfers admitted in 1981 to private colleges which accounted for 48% of the total from community colleges: and for each there was an increase of 28%, 15% and 11%, respectively by 1985 in transfers to private colleges. Overall, transfers from New Jersey community colleges were 29% of the total transfers to private institutions in 1981 and 33% in 1985.

The data in these tables also suggest that the public senior colleges have lost ground to the independent institutions in competing for the diminished pool of students who transfer from private colleges. Note that tne percentage decrease for the number of transfers from New Jersey's private colleges to public colleges (759 to 611) was the same as the percentage increase for number of transfers within the private sector (497 to 595).

3. Attributes of 1985 Undergraduate Transfers

The senior public colleges that are participants in the Student Unit Record Enrollment (SURE) system provided information about incoming transfer students in the fall of 1985 which enables study of the demographic characteristics of the cohort and other attributes. Table 5 presents data on class level at entry, attendance status, race and sex for transfers to the senior public colleges that participated in the SURE system in 1985 (i.e., all New Jersey senior public colleges except Rutgers, N.J.I.T. and U.M.D.N.J.). Based on this sample, it can be inferred that incoming transfers are predominantly full-time students (65%) and that there is a slight excess of females compared to males. Overall, approximately half enter as freshmen, but the college-specific percentages vary from 12% to 99%. It is noteworthy that the class level distributions for Jersey City and Montclair are essentially the same; an incoming transfer is almost certainly a freshman. Five of the remaining colleges show consistently equivalent percentages for entering sophomores, with 33% to 38% incoming transfers being admitted to the sophomore class. Trenton's distribution for class level admissions, which is not similar to any other reporting schools, suggests that the pool of applicants or the criteria for judging

the relevancy of the applicants previous background are different compared to the other schools. Overall, only 13% of incoming transfers of known race were nonwhite. Hispanics comprised 22% of the Jersey City cohort and 9.5% of the Montclair cohort; no other college exceeded the overall average of 5% for Hispanics. The overall average percentage for blacks was 6% and the racial composition of the cohorts from Stockton, Kean and Jersey City exceeded this mean.

Table 6 provides the age distribution for full time and part time transfer students. The median age for all incoming transfers to the eight public senior colleges studied was 21 years. A little more than one-fourth were 25 years of age or older at the time of enrollment as transfers. Comparison of the age distribution for full-time students with that for part-time students indicates that the latter are generally older than the former. Whereas 85% of full-time students are 24 years of age or younger, most part-time students (67%) are 25 years of age or older.

TABLE 1

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER STUDENTS & THEIR PERCENT OF ALL UNDERGRADUATES
FALL 1981 THRU FALL 1985

INSTITUTION	1981 TRAN #	1981 % OF UG	1982 TRAN #	1982 % OF UG	1983 TRAN #	1983 % OF UG	1984 TRAN #	1984 % OF UG	1985 TRAN #	1985 % OF UG
N.J. INST. OF TECHNOLOGY	417	7.7	550	9.7	538	10.5	506	10.9	589	10.9
RUTGERS, CAMDEN	519	12.6	544	13.7	577	14.9	626	16.9	513	14.0
RUTGERS, NEWARK	740	11.6	760	12.3	421	7.3	691	11.7	665	11.2
RUTGERS, NEW BRUNSWICK	2094	8.2	1757	7.1	1848	7.3	2036	8.0	1717	6.6
TOTAL, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	3353	10.7	3061	11.4	2846	12.2	3353	9.6	2895	12.2
GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE	874	10.3	774	9.1	925	11.7	843	11.1	733	9.9
JERSEY CITY STATE COLLEGE	441	6.3	494	7.0	428	6.2	572	8.6	350	6.1
KEAN COLLEGE OF N.J.	957	8.5	1009	9.1	992	8.9	947	8.5	1011	9.2
MONTCLAIR STATE COLLEGE	1063	8.8	903	7.2	861	7.4	773	6.8	773	6.9
RAMAPO COLLEGE OF N.J.	455	10.0	457	10.1	484	11.2	407	10.3	481	12.2
STOCKTON STATE COLLEGE	521	10.8	555	11.0	447	8.9	555	11.7	527	10.9
TRENTON STATE COLLEGE	792	9.3	611	7.3	437	5.6	541	7.2	526	7.8
WM. PATERSON COLLEGE	990	9.6	1019	10.0	1010	10.9	840	10.0	832	10.5
TOTAL, STATE COLLEGES	6093	9.1	5822	8.7	5584	8.7	5478	8.9	5233	8.9
GRAND TOTAL	9863	9.1	9433	8.8	8968	8.6	9337	9.2	8717	8.8

SOURCE: NJ HEGIS FORM #303, 'UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFERS TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES'.
TABLE PRODUCED AUGUST 26, 1986. (XTRANIN)

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Table 2
Total Undergraduate Transfers to Public Senior Colleges from each Contributing Source and Percent of All Undergraduate Transfers in the Fall Cohorts of 1981 and 1985

NJ Four Year Colleges *	NJ Community Colleges				NJ 4 yr Public				NJ Independents				Out of State			
	1981		1985		1981		1985		1981		1985		1981		1985	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
NJ Institute of Technology	189	45.3	355	60.3	75	18.0	49	8.3	35	8.4	20	3.4	118	28.3	165	28.0
Rutgers, Camden Campus	218	42.0	205	40.0	21	4.0	33	6.4	4	0.7	13	2.5	145	27.9	170	33.1
Rutgers, Newark Campus	231	31.2	218	32.8	50	6.8	56	8.4	41	5.5	52	7.8	93	12.6	134	20.2
Rutgers, New Brunswick Campus	787	37.5	790	45.4	110	5.2	173	10.1	84	4.0	65	3.8	577	27.5	462	26.9
Total Rutgers University	1,236	36.9	1,203	41.6	181	5.4	262	9.1	129	3.8	130	4.5	815	24.3	766	26.5
Glassboro State College	567	64.9	476	64.9	69	7.9	59	8.1	26	3.2	20	2.7	212	24.3	178	24.3
Jersey City State College	145	32.9	133	38.0	82	18.1	52	14.9	90	20.4	71	20.3	124	28.1	94	26.9
Kean College of NJ	467	48.8	524	51.8	115	12.0	175	17.3	69	7.2	68	6.7	306	31.9	244	24.1
Montclair State College	411	38.7	314	40.6	193	18.2	140	18.1	167	15.7	97	12.5	292	27.8	222	28.7
Ramapo College of NJ	158	34.7	134	27.9	59	12.9	120	24.9	38	8.4	35	7.3	200	43.9	192	39.9
Stockton State College	298	55.3	312	59.2	50	9.6	47	8.9	26	5.0	16	3.0	157	30.1	152	28.8
Trenton State College	451	56.9	282	53.6	65	8.2	32	6.1	65	8.2	41	7.8	211	26.6	171	32.5
Wm. Paterson College of NJ	427	43.1	359	43.1	224	22.6	113	13.5	114	11.5	113	13.5	225	22.7	247	29.7
Total State Colleges	2,914	47.8	2,534	48.4	857	14.0	738	14.1	595	9.8	461	8.8	1,727	28.3	1,500	28.7
GRAND TOTAL, All Colleges	4,339	44.0	4,092	46.9	1,113	11.3	1,049	12.0	759	7.7	611	7.0	2,660	27.0	2,431	27.9

* Some row percentages do not add to 100% because certain colleges reported that transfers were from unknown but not New Jersey community colleges.

TABLE 3

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER STUDENTS, FALL 1981 THRU FALL 1985

PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES

SOURCE	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
ATLANTIC	138	143	122	121	132
BERGEN	577	475	468	496	444
BROOKDALE	314	347	358	399	351
BURLINGTON	219	213	283	265	209
CAMDEN	286	255	314	320	274
CUMBERLAND	129	96	97	109	71
ESSEX	208	201	177	244	235
GLOUCESTER	124	115	161	143	134
HUDSON	65	70	72	94	73
MERCER	227	220	192	174	201
MIDDLESEX	671	573	606	573	585
MORRIS	480	436	471	483	471
OCEAN	203	245	244	270	258
PASSAIC	79	82	89	60	72
SALEM	27	16	36	23	26
SOMERSET	227	202	189	227	197
UNION	365	313	356	212	359
TOTAL, NJ COMM COLL	4339	4002	4235	4213	4092
NJ INDEPENDENT	759	687	662	675	611
NJ 4YR PUBLIC	1113	1121	1169	1126	1049
OUT-OF-STATE	2660	2723	2902	2898	2431
UNKN NON-NJCC	992	900	.	425	534
TOTAL, NON NJ COMM COLL	5524	5431	4733	5124	4625
GRAND TOTAL	9863	9433	8968	9337	8717

SOURCE: NJ HEGIS FORM #303, UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFERS TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES
TABLE PRODUCED AUGUST 26, 1986. (XTRANPI)

TABLE 4

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER STUDENTS, FALL 1981 THRU FALL 1985

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

SOURCE	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
ATLANTIC	6	9	3	6	4
BERGEN	155	134	122	155	133
BROOKDALE	154	153	180	234	197
BURLINGTON	19	20	18	18	21
CAMDEN	2	5	4	6	9
CUMBERLAND	2	6	1	7	3
ESSEX	68	57	55	76	55
GLOUCESTER	3	2	3	1	2
HUDSON	28	21	35	36	45
MERCER	38	36	46	46	47
MIDDLESEX	61	72	84	105	66
MORRIS	168	201	176	183	187
OCEAN	162	182	164	178	187
PASSAIC	9	10	18	20	17
SALEM	4	.	.	.	.
SOMERSET	38	35	40	43	35
UNION	95	70	75	59	54
TOTAL, NJ COMM COLL	1012	1013	1024	1173	1062
NJ INDEPENDENT	497	509	550	691	595
NJ 4YR PUBLIC	390	341	374	430	304
OUT-OF-STATE	1332	1406	1239	1251	1198
UNKN NON-NJCC	250	.	.	.	45
TOTAL, NON NJ COMM COLL	2469	2256	2163	2372	2142
GRAND TOTAL	3481	3269	3187	3545	3204

SOURCE: NJ HEGIS FORM #303, UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFERS TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES
TABLE PRODUCED AUGUST 26, 1986. (XTRANPI)

Table 5
Percentage Distributions for Selected Characteristics of
Undergraduate transfers to Public Senior Colleges in 1985 *

Characteristics	Glassboro	Jersey City	Kean	Montclair	Ramapo	Stockton	Trenton	Wm Paterson
Attendance								
- Full Time	78.5	49.5	49.9	64.9	64.5	78.6	75.4	68.9
Class								
- Freshmen	12.4	99.7	29.2	98.6	27.7	28.9	72.1	38.8
- Sophomore	33.8	0.3	32.8	0.8	32.9	37.9	19.4	37.9
- Junior	44.3	--	33.9	0.7	38.4	27.3	8.2	21.3
- Senior	8.7	--	4.0	--	1.0	5.5	0.2	2.1
- Unclassified UG	0.7	--	0.1	--	--	0.4	--	--
Sex								
- Female	54.3	53.5	62.3	62.4	44.2	51.8	59.3	54.2
Race								
- White	80.9	47.8	75.5	83.8	65.5	81.6	76.6	76.1
- Black	5.2	17.9	7.9	3.2	1.6	6.3	2.6	5.7
- Hispanic	1.6	22.3	4.1	9.5	1.0	1.3	1.2	4.3
- Alaskan/Indian	0.4	--	--	0.9	--	0.6	0.2	0.2
- Asian	1.1	--	2.7	2.6	1.9	2.3	0.8	1.5
- Unknown	10.8	--	9.9	--	30.0	7.8	18.6	12.3

SOURCE: 1985 S.U.R.E System Tapes
Tables Produced 8/26/86
* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 6

Age Distribution of Undergraduate Transfers
To Public Senior Colleges In 1985*

Age	Full-Time #	Full-Time %	Part-Time #	Part-Time %
≤ 19	712	21.4	63	3.7
20-24	2,140	64.4	586	34.0
25-29	233	7.0	413	23.9
30-39	158	4.8	432	25.0
40-49	37	1.1	159	9.2
50+	7	0.2	44	2.6
Unknown	36	1.1	28	1.6
TOTAL	3,323	100.0	1,725	100.0

*Source: 1985 SURE system tapes submitted by Glassboro, Jersey City, Kean, Montclair, Ramapo, Stockton, Trenton, and William Paterson Colleges.

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